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SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING SEPTEMBER 1979

Sunspot activity rose to the highest level this cycle. The September monthly mean of 184.0 was well above the previous high month which was last January when it reached 164.4. This new high monthly mean pulled the 12-month smoothed mean up to 128.3 for March.

Many ionospheric disturbances accompanied the high sunspot counts of September. A particularly interesting day was the 19th and all six of the charts reproduced are of this day. Eight separate events can be found in the charts. The last to occur was a major flare starting at 2300 UT. This event is recorded on the three charts in the middle of the page but the two bottom do not show it because they are already into their sunset patterns due to recording easterly signal sources. Notice however, that the second chart from the bottom shows a sudden drop in its nighttime trace at 0100 UT. This could be caused by high-speed protons from the major flare. Note that a similar drop occurs in the 17.8 kHz trace at the top of the page. This 17.8kHz trace was also well into nighttime propagation at 0100 UT.



